

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Attached Allen-Scott Report

1. This memorandum is for information.
2. The only light I can shed on this subject is by way of recalling the gist of the conversation in your office after our luncheon with Assistant Secretary Woodward. You will recall that Woodward indicated that thought was being given to measures which would result in a total embargo of US trade with Cuba. He made the point that even though the number of dollars involved was comparatively small, even this reduction in Cuban dollar exchange would hurt the Castro government. As I remember it, the consensus of opinion voiced by you and your lieutenants was that an embargo might be a poor idea because it would permit Castro to blame the forthcoming Cuban economic crisis on the US, at the same time exculpating himself. We felt that Castro would make a pretty good case with certain important Latin American countries.
3. It may be that Bob Woodward talked informally to someone who made a good story of it for the benefit of the press. Of course, it is not beyond the power of the press to do its own embroidering.
4. Of course there is no National Intelligence Estimate on this subject and indeed no Board of National Estimates memorandum to you.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

11 JUN 1980

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